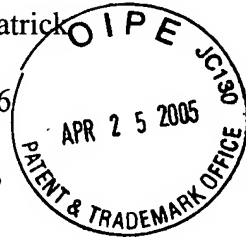


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: GWEN, Patrick

SERIAL NO.: 10/698,006

FILED: October 30, 2003



ART UNIT: 3732

EXAMINER: Willatt, S.L.

TITLE: FLOSSER APPARATUS WITH DETACHABLE AND POSITIONABLE FLOSS
ELEMENT

AMENDMENT "A"

Director of the U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of February 9, 2005, a response being due by May 9, 2005,
please consider the following remarks:

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, previous Claims 1 - 18 have been canceled and new Claims 19 - 39 substituted therefor. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the forgoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of placing the application into a proper condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that Claims 1 - 4, 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Zambito patent in view of the Page patent. Claims

14 - 17 were objected to because of an informality. Claim 18 was indicated as allowed. Claims 14 - 17 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended so as to overcome the informality objection. Claims 5 - 8 and 10 - 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner with respect to the prior art rejections, Applicant is desirous of securing patent protection for the present invention at an early date. As such, Applicant has placed those "objected to" claims into a properly allowable form so as to secure an early Notice of Allowance for this application.

In particular, new independent Claim 19 incorporates the limitations of previous independent Claim 1, along with the limitations of objected-to Claim 5. As such, Claim 19 should be in a proper condition for allowance. Dependent Claims 20 - 22 reflect the limitations, respectively, of original dependent Claims 2 - 4. Dependent Claims 23 - 26 reflect, respectively, the limitations of previous dependent Claims 6 - 9.

New independent Claim 27 incorporates the limitations of previous independent Claim 1, along with the limitations of objected-to Claim 11 and intervening Claim 10. As such, independent Claim 27 should be in a proper condition for allowance. Dependent Claims 29 - 30 reflect the limitations, respectively, of original dependent Claims 12 and 13.


Independent Claim 31 reflects the limitations of objected-to Claim 14. The language found in independent Claim 31 utilizes the proper term "said slot" instead of the previous term "said slots". Dependent Claims 32 - 34 reflects the limitations, respectively, of original dependent Claims 15 - 17.

Previously allowed Claim 18 has been rewritten herein in the form of new independent Claim 39. New independent Claim 35 identically recites the limitations found in previous independent Claim 18.

Based upon the foregoing analysis, Applicant contends that independent Claims 19, 27, 31 and 39 are now in proper condition for allowance. Those claims which are dependent upon these independent claims should also be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since one new independent claim has been added above those originally paid for, an additional fee of \$100 is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

4-20-05
Date



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